

# Recognizable Christians

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- Chick-Fil-A is being hammered by the liberal press for supporting the biblical view of marriage—a man and a woman. Will you support Chick-Fil-A or avoid them out of embarrassment?
- Can the world identify you as a Christian?
- What is the evidence?
- **True Story:** Recently a couple called the police to their home. They both looked like they were living a rough life. The man had a can of beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other.

He claimed that a ghost had lifted his wife's arm while she was in bed, and that he saw the ghost out of the side of his eye.

- The policeman recommended they get an exorcist.
- "Naw," said the man, "We're Christians. We're beer drinking, cigarette smoking Christians."
- I found it interesting that the man sensed his own inconsistency with the need to say what he did. You would never think to say, "I'm a shoe-wearing Christian."

**Note:** If the world cannot identify you as a Christian, chances are heaven may not either.

**Note:** Israel was to come out from the pagan nations and be separate.

**The church** is to likewise be separate.

But, there is no place to go, as did the Pilgrims.

So what does separation mean for us today?

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 ESV

**14)** Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? **15)** What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with

an unbeliever? **16)** What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

"I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**17)** Therefore **go out from their midst**, and **be separate from them**, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,

**18)** and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

**7:1)** Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, **bringing holiness to completion** in the fear of God.

## **BIC History of Separation**

### **Forefathers Saw Two Kingdoms**

**Kingdom of Darkness** under Satan (Set to destroy the church)

**Kingdom of Light** under Jesus Christ (Separate from the world)

### **Forefather's Motivation**

To be the visible Kingdom of God on earth, living separate from the world and in the light of biblical purity.

### **Forefather's Methods**

- Simple lifestyles.
- Plain dress.
- Head coverings (Prayer Veiling).
- Universal hair style for men (plus beards without mustaches).
- Holy Kiss.
- Dubious about photos.
- Plain houses (and meeting places).
- No musical instruments.
- No amusement or entertainment (fairs, dances, theater, sports).
- Separate from those who did not practice tri-emersion.

- No falling top (convertible) buggies. Changed their opinion about five years later.
- No oaths or vows.
- Much, much more.
  - Can't mock. We don't know all the pressures they were dealing with in their cultural setting and times.
  - These were German-speaking people who isolated themselves from the world in every way they could think.
  - We have done away with most of the ways they displayed separation and holiness.
  - **Now, we must forge what we view as separation and holiness.**

**Vital: God has not changed his mind** about **separation** and **holiness**.

How will we define and apply it today?

We have no place to run.

We cannot separate from the world's economy.

What will please God for us to do?

## **Separation and Holiness Today (How will You Apply It?)**

### **1) Paying the Price of Principle**

**Chick-Fil-A** owners hold a biblical view of marriage.

- **4.1 billion dollar sales** last year. Did loss concern them?
- **Can it hurt their franchises?** Did this matter to them?
- **Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel** said, "Chick-Fil-A values are not Chicago values." Did he intimidate them?
- **A Chicago alderman** vowed to block a proposed Chick-Fil-A franchise in his district. Did this cause them to change their mind?
- **Sections of Boston Banned Chick-Fil-A.** Did Chick-Fil-A concede?
- **Governor Mike Huckabee** called for the nation to flood Chick-Fil-A restaurants this coming Wednesday.

- **Dr. Billy Graham**, at age 93 and barely able to walk from Parkinson Disease said, “As the son of a dairy farmer who milked many a cow, I plan to ‘Eat Mor Chikin’ and show my support by visiting Chick-Fil-A next Wednesday.”

**Note:** Where do you stand when principles come under fire?

## 2) Protecting the Power of Purity

- God has entrusted to you the gift of sex.
- It is a powerful force that can bring either destruction or fulfillment.
- It can help build a powerful marriage or turn you into the most broken, lonely person on earth.
- It is the source of a new generation.
- It turns you into the guardian of the next generation.

**Note:** Decide now whether sex will be your master or servant.

## 3) Possessing Character Built on Conviction

- Character is not a free gift from God. It is something we are commanded to build.
- Character is built by deciding now that person you want to be before God.
- Then, you make choices that protect your character, not compromise it.

## 4) Developing the Dynamic of Discernment

**Hebrews 5:11-14** ESV

**11)** About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. **12)** For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, **13)** for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. **14)** But solid food is for the mature, for **those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.**

- Can you discern when a Christian meeting is Spirit-led, flesh driven or demon influenced?
- Can you discern when a good offer is a trick of the devil?
- Can you discern when a friendship is going in the wrong direction?
- Can you see deeper than words to read the motives of people's hearts?

**Vital:** God won't give you a list of rules, but he will give you the power of discernment if you truly want to live a separated, holy life.

## 5) **Defending Timeless Truth**

Do you timidly comply with the non-truth taught in our schools, or do you boldly stand for truth at the expense of ridicule?

**Dr. John Morris** (Of the Institute for Creation research) is a scientist willing to face ridicule of the scientific community to stand for trust in a literal interpretation of the creation account.

**July 28, 2012:** Yesterday he wrote “The Bible clearly states that God created the ‘heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is’ (Exodus 20:11) out of nothing. The first verse of the Bible, ‘In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth,’ could be paraphrased: God called into existence the space—mass—time (i.e., heavens—earth—beginning) universe.” Evidently before creation, nothing now intrinsic to the universe existed at all.”

“While this teaching is clear, not hard to understand, it is hard to believe. Our difficulty stems from the fact that we are sinful creatures; our minds are hampered by sin. ‘The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14 **ESV**).’”

**Note:** Are you as sure as he that the Bible is true, even when it does not please the scholars and scientists of the day?

## 6) Dressing Fit for Your King

Every person knows when they are dressing to awaken sexual interest in another person.

**“Everyone dresses this way”** won’t fly with God.

You must decide whether or not your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit to be used for the purposes of God or not.

### Call to Action

**Note:** If the world cannot identify you as a Christian, chances are heaven may not either.

**Note:** Holiness and separation is not being devoted to rules, but binding your heart to a person—Jesus Christ.

### Assignment:

Add to this list ideas of how to live out holiness and separation in today’s world.

**Recognizable Christians:** Are you one?